

Wetland

Goals and Recommendations

for the State of Missouri



MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
Division of Geology and Land Survey

The following short and long term wetland conservation goals and recommendations were developed by the Missouri Department of Natural Resources in Cooperation with the Missouri Wetland Advisory Council. While unanimous approval was strived for by the Wetland Advisory Council, it was not attained in every case.

Short Term Goal

ACHIEVE NO OVERALL NET LOSS OF THE STATE'S REMAINING WETLAND RESOURCE BASE BY THE YEAR 1995.

No overall net loss means that the loss of Missouri wetlands will not exceed the gains, considering acreage, functions and values. Common sense dictates that this goal does not imply that individual wetland will, in every instance, be untouchable or that the no net loss standard should be applied on an individual basis. Rather, that the state's wetland resource base reach equilibrium, in the short term, between losses and gains. Achieving this short term goal will require a reduction in the rate at which existing wetlands are being lost and an increase in efforts to restore and create wetlands. These efforts must come from all levels of government and all sectors of the population. The public must share with the private sector the costs of restoring and creating wetlands to achieve this goal.

Recommendations - Short Term Goal

1. Establish a statewide planning committee through which options for implementation of the short term goal may be discussed. Planning for the future of the state's wetland resource should be through a forum process, not by any one agency or interest group. A consensus about the future of the state's wetland resource will be sought.
2. Research, evaluate, and report on the status of the wetland resource base. Information necessary to formulate responsible resource policy includes: past and current extent of the resource, causes of historic wetland losses, current threats faced by the resource, rationale for protecting the remaining resource, and the effectiveness of the existing private and government programs in protecting the resource.
3. Develop and implement a statewide wetland education program. The short term goal cannot be achieved without public and private participation. Public awareness of the importance of achieving the no overall net loss goal is critical in eliciting action from the public and private sector.
4. Establish a wetland information clearing house for the purpose of providing Missouri citizens with a single point of contact for up-to-date, accurate information on wetlands.
5. Create new incentives as appropriate, publicize and support existing incentives such as the Wetland Reserve Program, which encourage local governments, industry, and private wetland owners, to protect their wetland resources.
6. Integrate wetland protection into existing state programs to reduce wetland loss resulting from state government activities that either affect wetlands directly or that encourage private landowners to alter them. State agencies should avoid activities that would alter a wetland. If the activity must be located in a wetland, action should be taken to minimize the effects of the activity on the wetland. The state

agency should compensate for any wetlands altered by the unavoidable impacts.

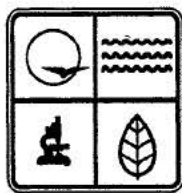
7. Develop a system and begin recording the gains and losses of wetlands due to state agency activities or due to activities which were facilitated through agency funding.
8. Establish a cooperative public-private Wetland Federation for the purposes of: a) establishing a funding mechanism for wetland acquisition, and b) creating new, and promoting existing, opportunities for wetland restoration and creation.
9. Through rule making, improve the state's ability to protect wetlands through Section 401 of the Clean Water Act.
10. Establish special focus wetland mitigation banks, such as a highway department bank, which would serve as the first step toward the long term goal of a State Wetland Mitigation Bank.
11. Establish a state inter-agency wetland committee to discuss and coordinate ways state agencies can reduce wetland losses through cooperative measures. This committee would differ from the existing Missouri Wetland Advisory Council in that it would be a smaller working group composed of those state agencies directly involved with wetland issues.
12. Provide public assistance in the form of detailed advice, assessment, and design technical assistance to 404 permittees and others who are required to restore or create wetlands.
13. Establish and coordinate a network of volunteers, organizations, and professionals who can advise, design and build wetland restoration and creation projects.

Long Term Goal

**INCREASE THE QUANTITY AND QUALITY OF MISSOURI'S WETLAND RESOURCE BASE CONSIDERING
ACREAGE, FUNCTIONS AND VALUES BY THE YEAR 2000.**

Recommendations - Long Term Goal

1. Complete a state wetland inventory which, at a minimum, incorporates data from the National Wetland Inventory, the USDA Soil Conservation Service, the Natural Heritage Inventory, and any other data on rare and endangered species.
2. Have in place alternatives which eliminate state funded private activities that may alter wetlands.
3. Establish a State Wetland Mitigation Bank.
4. Evaluate the implementation status of the short term wetland conservation goals. Continue and expand successful efforts begun as short term wetland conservation goals.



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